



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2012

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Date: July 20, 2012

Subject: Request for Town Sponsorship in Young Author's Contest (\$500)

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the \$500 Sponsorship Request

DISCUSSION:

The Loomis News and Taylor Lyen are requesting the Town of Loomis to help sponsor a Young Author's Contest which is open to all fifth grade students in the Loomis Union School District. Students will be asked to write a 500 – 700 word fictional narrative, taking place in Loomis (setting), and to create plot, characters, point of view, conflict, and dialogue. The \$500 donation will be used to provide prizes and plaques for winning students and help defray any expenses. The Loomis Unified School District Superintendent and the Loomis Basin Education Foundation have indicated full support for this contest.

CEQA :

Categorically Exempt

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The \$500 will come from the Council Donations and Awards fund in the approved 2012/2013 Town Budget.

July 12, 2012



Auburn Journal
Colfax Record

The Press-Tribunes:

Central Roseville Edition

West Roseville Edition

Granite Bay Press-Tribune

The Placer Herald

Lincoln News Messenger

The Loomis News

The Folsom Telegraph

El Dorado Hills Telegraph

Granite Bay View

Inside Lincoln

Auburn Trader

Gold Country Printing

Loomis Town Council
Loomis Town Hall
3665 Taylor Road
Loomis, CA 95650

RE: School Writing Contest sponsorship

Loomis Town Council Members,

The Loomis News is excited to be participating in a writing contest for all Loomis Union School District fifth-graders.

This contest encourages students to write and will provide an opportunity for them to be recognized, supported and encouraged in their efforts.

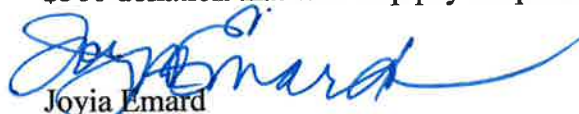
The Loomis News will cover the contest and will recognize the winners in our editorial pages.

When I was in grammar school, I won an American Legion essay contest. The monetary prize was not large, but the encouragement and recognition I received has lasted a lifetime. It was the first time an outside entity, other than my teachers, had validated my writing efforts. I have been a lifelong writer and now it is my profession. And it all started with winning that contest.

I see this contest as a way for the Town of Loomis to support education and to support the local schools. I also see that the contest is tied into the community because Loomis will be the setting for the student narratives.

My hopes are that this contest will be an ongoing partnership between the community and schools and will encourage students to write. Perhaps someday, an adult writer will be able to look back and remember this contest and the Town of Loomis as the place where it all began for them.

Thank you for your consideration of sponsoring the contest with a \$500 donation that will help pay for prizes.


Joyia Emard
Loomis News Editor

To: Whom It May Concern

From: Taylor Lyen, Loomis Property Owner

Re: Loomis Young Author's Contest for Fifth Graders

I am a retired educator and writer, whose daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren live in Loomis. My objective is to encourage young people to write narrative fiction.

As a former deputy superintendent of schools, I also know the benefits of having community support and want to "improve communication and understanding among town leaders and stakeholders," as stated in the 2012/2013 Town Council Goals. Below is an overview of 1) the planned Young Author's Contest and 2) community involvement.

Young Author's Contest: *California's Language Arts Content Standards* requires all fifth grade students to write a 500 to 700-word fictional narrative, demonstrating command of standard American English, research skills, organizational skills, and drafting strategies outlined in California's Writing Standard. These California standards are the judging criteria for the proposed Loomis Young Author's Contest, which is open to all fifth grade students in the Loomis Union School District. Students will be asked to write a fictional narrative, taking place in Loomis (setting), and to create plot, characters, point of view, conflict, and dialogue.

Town Leaders and Stakeholders: In concept the proposal, described above, is supported by Gorden Medd, Superintendent of Schools, who will allow the contest to move forward in the district; Carolyn Petree, Loomis Basin Education Foundation president, who will accept the sponsorship donation to provide prizes to contest winners; Joyia Emard, editor, Loomis News, who will covering the event and feature the winning students in the Loomis News. A committee, yet to be chosen, will provide judging of the entries.

We would like to request sponsorship by the Town of Loomis and the Loomis Town Council with a \$500 donation that will be used to provide prizes and plaques for winning students and help defray any expenses.

At this point, prizes have not been determined, but they may include gift certificates, savings bonds or cash, along with plaques.

Thank you for your consideration,

Taylor Samuel Lyen

tlyenbooks.com